

the Human Services Chair in the County Legislature. This committee oversees the Departments of Social Services, Youth, Aged, Health, Veterans, and Mental Health, and the County Home. There is no doubt that she will be missed in each of these areas. Sallie also has a special place in her heart for children and senior citizens.

I must also acknowledge Mrs. Pullano's other interests. She not only served as an integral member of the Chautauqua County Legislature for many years but she is actively involved in a leading role in the Dunkirk-Fredonia Breast Cancer Support Group and holds membership in the Partners for Prevention Coalition. She also serves on the boards of directors for Hospice Chautauqua and Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc., and is on the Chautauqua County Health Network Advisory Board.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Sallie on her wonderful job well done in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Sallie, you will be missed by all of the constituents whose lives you touched. Enjoy your retirement!

HOME INFUSION THERAPY COVERAGE ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues KAY GRANGER, TAMMY BALDWIN, CHIP PICKERING and RANDY KUHL in introducing the "Home Infusion Therapy Coverage Act of 2007". This bill would correct long-standing gaps in Medicare coverage for home infusion therapy, and will enable thousands of beneficiaries to obtain these often life-saving therapies in the most convenient and cost-effective setting—their homes.

Currently, most beneficiaries who have severe infections, cancer, congestive heart disease or numerous other diagnoses for which infusion therapy is the clear state-of-the-art treatment must be admitted into hospitals or nursing homes to receive this care. This is most unfortunate, Mr. Speaker. The private sector recognizes the clinical value and cost-effectiveness of home infusion therapy, and as a result full and proper coverage of home infusion therapy is commonplace among private payers. Medicare stands virtually alone in its antiquated coverage policies that discourage the use of a therapy that in actuality should be promoted for its cost savings and convenience.

Home infusion therapy requires the coordination of professional services, supplies and equipment to safely and effectively administer infusion drugs. Part D, the outpatient prescription drug benefit, covers most infusion drugs, but does not cover these services, supplies and equipment necessary to provide infusion therapy in the home. As a result, Part D coverage of home infusion falls far short of its potential to keep patients out of hospitals and nursing homes. Many beneficiaries must pay for the infusion services, supplies and equipment with out-of-pocket funds and most cannot afford this expense. Their only other realistic option is to obtain their care in a hospital or nursing home at a much higher cost burden to our Nation's healthcare system. The clear

result is that access to home infusion therapy, despite its potential for cost savings and good clinical outcomes, is needlessly limited.

Our bill is very simple in its approach. It would institute coverage for the home infusion-related services, supplies and equipment under Part B, while maintaining coverage of the drugs themselves under Part D. Medicare Part B clearly is the most appropriate part of the Medicare program for coverage of the non-drug components of the therapy. In addition, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services would apply quality standards that are consistent with the private sector's community standard of care. Both beneficiaries and the Medicare program itself would reap the benefits of broader access to these important medical treatments in the home.

I would like to note that this legislation is strongly supported by a broad coalition of infusion therapy stakeholders, including patient organizations, infusion pharmacies, infectious disease physicians, and manufacturers of infusion drugs. Along with my colleagues, I urge early consideration of this long-overdue bill.

HONORING THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Christian Reformed Church in North America, which is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding. The church is in the midst of a year-long series of observances and services centered on the theme "Grace Through Every Generation," in three phases of emphasis: Remembering, Rejoicing, and Rededicating.

The Christian Reformed Church (CRC) is a group of nearly a thousand Protestant churches in the United States and Canada. The CRC has its roots in the Reformation of the 16th century. In 1517, the Reformation divided the Christian church, and several Protestant denominations were born. One branch developed under the influence of theologians Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin. The "Presbyterian" church flourished in Scotland and the "Reformed" church in northern Europe, particularly in the Netherlands, with an emphasis on the sovereignty of God, faith in Him alone for salvation, and the preeminence of Scripture in worship.

Dutch Protestants brought their deep faith and their practical piety with them when they emigrated to the United States in the 1800s. My district in West Michigan has some of the deepest roots of Dutch-American history and heritage in the country. Dutch explorers, traders and settlers were a significant part of the earliest European exploration of the New World, especially in New York and New Jersey. However, the first major wave of Dutch immigration began in the 1840s with the Calvinists. Like so many of the original settlers here in America, they wanted more religious liberty than they experienced in their home country. They dared to journey across the Atlantic to New York and then moved across

northern New York and finally settled near the shores of Lake Michigan. Waves of Dutch settlers soon found Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan, to be the places of stability and religious liberty they were seeking. In 1857, a group of four churches—about 130 families—officially broke from the Dutch Reformed Church and formed the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

Throughout its 150 years, the CRC has maintained a commitment to the teachings of John Calvin as well as the great Dutch theologian, Abraham Kuyper, who called the church not only to holy living but to assert Jesus Christ's lordship over all of creation. This means that every aspect of life belongs to God, and every sphere of life—from schools to homes to businesses to government—can be a forum for learning more about God and helping to make the world a better place.

Throughout its 150 years, the CRC has wrestled with many of the same social issues faced by other churches and the country in general. The church's worldview has shaped its level of accommodation of different lifestyles and cultures, its discussions of ways to combat racism, its debates over the place of women in church leadership, and its consideration of the appropriate response to war and other international conflicts.

Throughout its 150 years, several CRC programs and ministries have developed and grown to reflect this worldview. This includes The Back to God Hour, the church's worldwide radio and Internet ministry program; Christian Reformed World Missions, supporting more than 300 missionaries in 30 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia; the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee, which provides financial assistance and recovery workers in response to disasters and establishes long-term self-promotion and sustainable living projects around the world; and Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary, the church's educational institutions that help equip students for lives of work in God's service in every field.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to be a member of this church denomination, which has helped me and millions of others through the last 150 years to worship God faithfully, to experience fellowship with other believers, and to provide spiritual and physical care to those in need. I commend its members during this special time of remembering, rejoicing and rededicating. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the CRC on its 150 years of service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF SERGEANT IOSIWO URUO, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 5, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, some men become heroes on the battlefield; some are heroes in their communities, even before they go off to battle. With much sadness, I rise to say that Guam and the island of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia have lost such a hero. Army SGT Iosiwo Uruo, who died on May 24, 2007 in Buhriz, Iraq, in support of